

Message Text

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TAGS: PEPR, GW, US
SUBJECT: GENSCHER PRESS ARTICLE ON US-FRG RELATIONS

1. THE FOLLOWING ARTICLE BY FOREIGN MINISTER GENSCHER
APPEARED IN THE FEBRUARY 27 EDITION OF THE MASS
CIRCULATION DAILY BILD ZEITUNG:

BEGIN TEXT:

GERMAN-AMERICAN FRIENDSHIP IS THE CORNERSTONE OF OUR
FOREIGN POLICY. WITHOUT IT, THERE COULD BE NO BALANCE
IN DIVIDED EUROPE. GERMANS AND AMERICANS CAN RELY ON
EACH OTHER, SINCE WE HAVE COMMON INTERESTS.

THE US STANDS BY BERLIN TODAY AS FIRMLY AS IN THE PAST.
BERLIN IS AND CONTINUES TO BE THE FOCUS OF OUR VITAL
NATIONAL INTEREST. BERLIN IS THE TOUCHSTONE OF DETENTE
FOR US AS WELL AS FOR THE US.

PRESIDENT CARTER HAS COME OUT CLEARLY IN FAVOR OF NATO
AND IN FAVOR OF INTENSIFIED AMERICAN ENGAGEMENT IN
EUROPE. ACCORDINGLY, EUROPEANS MUST BE READY TO ENGAGE
THEMSELVES EQUALLY FOR THEIR OWN SECURITY. CLEAR
POSITIONS AND CLEAR DECISIONS ARE REQUIRED HERE.
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NATO IS EXCLUSIVELY A DEFENSIVE ALLIANCE. ALL ALLIANCE
DECISIONS -- INCLUDING THE DECISIONS ON ARMS LIMITATION
AND ARMS CONTROL AS WELL AS ON MODERNIZING DEFENSE
WEAPONS, INCLUDING THE NEUTRON WEAPON -- WILL BE TAKEN
EXCLUSIVELY WITH A VIEW TO THE COMMON SECURITY INTERESTS
OF THE ALLIANCE PARTNERS. WE WILL NOT BE INFLUENCED IN

DOING SO BY EITHER BLANDISHMENTS OR THREATS FROM THE EAST.

COMMON SECURITY POLICY INCLUDES THE WILL TO DETER AS WELL AS THE DETERMINATION TO LIMIT ARMAMENTS. THESE CONCEPTS DEMAND RECIPROCITY AND BALANCE. THE WEST IS PREPARED TO APPLY THIS; THE EAST SHOULD FOLLOW ITS WORDS WITH CONCRETE DEEDS IN THIS AREA. THE EAST SHOULD SIMILARLY ORIENT ITSELF TOWARD RECIPROCITY AND BALANCE RATHER THAN TO ARM ITSELF AT A RATE WHICH EXCEEDS ITS REQUIREMENTS. IN THE WEST, DISCUSSION OF THESE DIFFICULT QUESTIONS SHOULD BE CONDUCTED OBJECTIVELY AND WITHOUT EMOTION.

NATO PROVIDES THE BASIS FOR A REALISTIC POLICY OF DETENTE. THERE IS NO REASONABLE ALTERNATIVE TO THAT POLICY. WE IN DIVIDED GERMANY ARE PARTICULARLY AWARE THAT MANKIND STANDS AT THE CENTER OF OUR DETENTE POLICY. HERE, TOO, WE ARE IN COMPLETE AGREEMENT WITH OUR AMERICAN PARTNER.

THE BASIS OF GERMAN-AMERICAN FRIENDSHIP IS SOLID. THEREFORE, WE CAN OPENLY DISCUSS PROBLEMS, INCLUDING THOSE IN THE ECONOMIC AND MONETARY AREA.

BOTH COUNTRIES CARRY GREAT RESPONSIBILITY IN THE UNCLASSIFIED

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GLOBAL STRUGGLE AGAINST INFLATION AND UNEMPLOYMENT. I DO NOT WANT TO IGNORE THE PRESENT PROBLEMS (STIMULATION OF THE GLOBAL ECONOMY, THE WEAKNESS OF THE DOLLAR). HOWEVER, WE HAVE ALWAYS BEEN CAPABLE OF JOINTLY OVERCOMING SUCH PROBLEMS IN THE PAST. THE COMING ECONOMIC SUMMIT IN BONN IN THE MIDDLE OF THE YEAR WILL GIVE US AN OPPORTUNITY TO DO SO AGAIN.

END TEXT.
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